A Little Longer

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Summary

Adorabat has a nightmare and Mao Mao is there to comfort her.

Adorabat fell from her perch head-first, mattress squeaking at the sudden pressure. Her yelp was cut short and then muffled in bed-sheets. She sat up and sniffled, whining softly to herself in darkness. What a horrible nightmare she had! So many big and scary monsters... Pure Heart Valley in ruins! Just thinking about it made her wanna curl up under a rock and cry. She was a big bat, though! It wasn't like nightmares were real. It was just a silly dream.

Then again, people always say that dreams can come true. If those could, what was stopping nightmares? Monsters *were* real. Pure Heart Valley could easily be destroyed one day without the protection they once had. Adorabat huffed to herself. Mao Mao was the protection they had now- and he was so much better! Everything was better with him around. Nothing could stop him...

Right?

Adorabat's doubts had her peeking under her bunk to speak with Mao Mao, but she soon noticed he wasn't in bed. Where was he? Adorabat felt anxiety rush through her body. It was a horrible feeling. She flew out of bed and flapped out of the room in search of the sheriff. What if something bad had happened? Maybe sky pirates kidnapped him! She wasn't sure why they wouldn't have taken Badgerclops, but it didn't matter! Mao Mao could be in trouble- why wasn't he in bed?!

She frantically flew all around the HQ like a fly trying to find it's way back outside before noticing a figure illuminated by the moonlight, in the place Mao Mao trained. Sure enough he was there, quiet as can be. Adorabat flew back to the ground, standing nervously in the doorway. She should've known better than to be worried. He was the strongest person ever! It was nice to have her worries gone, but she wasn't sure she could go back to bed. Oh well... Bothering Mao Mao wouldn't be very nice. Maybe she could sneak back into bed...

"Adorabat." Mao Mao said without turning to face her. It sent a chill down her spine, a chill that stuck with her when glowing green eyes greeted her yellow ones. "It's late. Why are you awake?"

Adorabat shifts in place, twiddling her wings and looking at the ground. "I'm sorry- I didn't mean to bother you!"

Mao Mao's ear twitched. "It's fine. I wasn't planning on meditating too long. Did you need something?"

She shook her head. "No... Um, can I sit with you?"

Mao Mao gave her a nod, watching as she shuffled over and sat down next to him. He stared at her for a moment, studying her. Adorabat didn't normally wake up like this. The day they had really tired everyone out- so much action! He didn't think a spiderbeast could have regrow limbs like that. Freaky, but oh boy was it a blast to defeat!

"Had a bad dream?" he asked after a moment of silence, earning a surprised look from the child.

"Well... Yeah." she admitted while looking down at the floorboards. "How did you know?"

"...Lucky guess. Do you need to talk about it?"

Adorabat nodded, leaning her head against Mao Mao's leg. "It was awful. Monsters were invading the valley! There were dozens of them and they were totally destroying everything! I wasn't worried because I knew we could stop them but we couldn't! You couldn't! They kept hurting you and Badgerclops and I tried to stop them from crushing you but my wing got stuck and-" she stopped talking only to wail and let out a sob.

Mao Mao pet Adorabat's head gently, feeling sympathetic. What an awful dream for such a little thing to have. He didn't think Adorabat would get so worried about these things... Which was foolish. She was just a child.

"Oh Adorabat... It's just a dumb dream, c'mon. Nothing like that would ever happen. No monster can defeat me- or Badgerclops! We're the best in the business. As long as we're here, the valley is safe. Alright?"

Adorabat blinked, tears dripping down her cheek. "I know! It was so real. I don't want anything to happen to you guys. I couldn't even help..."

Mao Mao frowned deeply. "Hey, hey. Look at me." Adorabat did as she was told, closing an eye as he reached a hand out to wipe her tears away. "Nothing like that is ever going to happen as long as I'm an amazing hero. Am I never not an amazing hero?"

"No... But- do you promise that you won't leave me like that?" Adorabat asked in a small voice. "You can't get hurt- you can't!"

He stared down at her, knowing well he couldn't ever promise such a thing. But... She was so scared. And sad. He couldn't let her be like this. She didn't deserve dumb nightmares like that. Those fears should be his burden alone.

"I'll try, deputy. Why don't we head back to bed? It's far from morning."

Adorabat hugged Mao Mao, who gladly returned it. "Let's stay here a little longer..."

Dad.

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